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NEW ZEALAND.

Auckland—Examination of Rats.

The following information was taken from the bulletin issued by the department of public health of New Zealand:

During the four weeks ended January 6, 1912, 356 rats were examined for plague infection and during the four weeks ended February 3, 1912, 623 rats. No plague-infected rat was found.

The last plague-infected rat was found May 31, 1911.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Antirat Regulations in Force at Philippine Ports.

MANILA, P. I., *January 3, 1912.*

Vessels coming to Manila direct from foreign ports will be required to anchor and await quarantine inspection and pratique before proceeding to the docks.

Upon arriving at the docks, all vessels, including cascoes, lighters, barges, etc., that make fast to the dock, or to any vessel that connects with the dock, will be required to observe the following precautions:

1. *Fending off from the docks.*—(*a*) Each vessel shall be fended off from the dock at least 6 feet at all points. Each vessel shall constantly use at least two fenders, placed at sufficient distances from the bow and stern to maintain the distance from the dock. (*b*) The rat shields on fenders shall be kept in position constantly.

2. *Placing rat guards on lines.*—No rat guards shall be used except those which have been approved by the quarantine service. A working plan of an approved rat guard may be obtained at the quarantine office.

3. *Raising gangways from docks at night.*—(*a*) Between sunset and sunrise, all gangways not in constant use shall be raised to a horizontal position and gangways shall be lowered and raised only when persons desire to leave and return to a vessel. (*b*) At night no vessel at a dock shall be permitted to use more than one gangway, board, or other means by which persons may reach or leave the vessel. (*c*) Large passenger vessels may keep their gangways lowered between sunset and sunrise provided that watchmen with cudgels are stationed at each gangway to prevent the escape of rats.

4. *Raising cargo chutes from docks at night.*—(*a*) All cargo chutes, boards, iron slides, or other devices used in discharging or landing cargo shall be removed between sunset and sunrise, except when special permission has been granted by the quarantine and customs officials to discharge cargo at night. (*b*) Cargo chutes shall be removed during the temporary absence of workmen, and upon the cessation of work. (*c*) When cargo chutes are in constant use, the responsible officials shall place a competent watchman with a cudgel at each cargo chute to prevent the escape of rats.

5. *Rat guards* shall be placed on all lines, ropes, cables, chains, hawsers, or other devices used in making a vessel fast, or lead to the dock, shore, or other vessel.

A rat guard shall be held to be properly applied—(*a*) When it is of a type approved by the quarantine service. (*b*) When its shank fits the lines, cables, hawsers, ropes, etc., tightly. It is usually necessary to pad the line with burlap in order that the shank of the guard may be tightly closed. (*c*) When it is tightly closed at all points and there are no openings in the shield proper. (*d*) When it is applied on the line not more than 6 feet from the vessel. (*e*) When it does not touch or overhang a dock, lighter, boat, or the shore.

When, by reason of its proximity to a vessel, it is impossible to apply a rat guard to a line, fresh tar shall be placed upon the line within 1 foot of the vessel and extending for a distance of not less than 6 feet, and a fresh coating of tar shall be applied daily.

6. *Removing lighters and boats from alongside at night.*—All boats belonging to a vessel shall be raised to the davits between sunset and sunrise, or the lines leading from the vessel to such craft in the water shall be equipped with rat guards.

No cascoes, lighters, or other cargo-carrying vessels shall be permitted to remain alongside a vessel after sunset unless cargo is actually being discharged, and then only by special permission. This also applies to all vessels from a foreign port anchored in the bay.

7. *Disposing of garbage.*—Vessels alongside docks, and those anchored or moored in the bay or harbor, shall not be permitted to throw garbage overboard. Such waste shall either be burned in the vessel's furnaces, or placed in the receptacles provided for the purpose.

8. *Docks.*—(*a*) The doors or gates which act as barriers to prevent rats from gaining access to the shore shall be kept closed as much as the traffic will permit, especially at night. (*b*) The small doors at the shore end of the docks shall be kept closed con-